

Diocesan and Community News

Message for the week of March 23:

A Minute with Jesus: Spend time in Jesus' Presence and you will Gradually Come to Know that Jesus is Indeed There. The desire to strengthen your faith requires some action on your part. It helps to go to the church and spend time with the mindset that Jesus is there. Take your problems and speak with Jesus. Even if you leave without anything seemingly having happened, you will gradually come to know Jesus is indeed there. Let's pray this right now and every day this week: Lord, help me to spend a few minutes in church and speak with You. This week, read how Jesus appears to Thomas who was not present when He first appeared to the apostles after His Resurrection. Thomas, when He does see Jesus, falls before Him and says "My Lord and My God" (John 20:19-29).

The Important Season of Lent: During the season of Lent, the major focus is on three pillars: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Regarding prayer, a transformative way of praying is incorporating a daily examination of conscience. This simple process takes about five minutes. Before climbing into bed, think back over the day in a broad sweep and give thanks to God for two things. Also, think back on how personal selfishness was manifested in your dealings with others and ask the Lord to forgive you. Fast from one thing that you particularly like, such as some type of social media, a type of food or a tv program, etc. Offer up this sacrifice for a member of your family who is struggling. Almsgiving is about sharing what we have with the poor - not only money but also ourselves - by serving someone in need.

Mass & Soup Supper: Holy Trinity Parish, 13th St and Park Ave. La Crosse will have Mass at 5:30 p.m. on the five Tuesdays during Lent followed by a Soup Supper in Leo Hall. Free will offering. Hosted by St. Anne's Ladies and Holy Trinity Men's Club. All are welcome.

Fish Fry at St. Charles, Genoa: Come enjoy a delicious Fish Fry at St. Charles School, 707 Eagle Street, Genoa, WI on April 4th! Eat in or get it to go. Serving from 5 pm - 7 pm or gone, in the cafeteria. Dinner includes: 3 pieces of cod fish, baked potato, coleslaw, baked beans and a bun for \$15. Drinks and desserts sold separately.

St. Mary's Men's Club Spaghetti and Pasta Dinner: The Men's Club will be hosting a spaghetti and pasta dinner on March 29, 2025 from 4-7 PM at St. Mary's Church, 900 Central Ave, Coon Valley. \$12 adults, \$5 kids under 12, and children under 3 free. Get a plate of spaghetti or pasta with sauce and meatballs, garlic bread, salad, coffee, milk or water and ice cream for dessert.

This Lent, Pray for an Increase of Hope! Jubilee of Hope 2025 is meant to foster greater spiritual renewal through deepening our relationship with Jesus. Pope Francis entitled the theme of this year "Pilgrims in Hope." Hope is not something that we muster up ourselves. We were given this gift in baptism and we nourish and renew hope by asking Jesus to increase it in us. We can make simple acts of hope by saying, "Jesus, I trust in You." We may also post the following Scripture verses on a mirror, and repeat them each day. "For You O Lord are my hope...my trust is in You" (Ps. 146:5). "I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for woe so as to give you a future of hope" (Jer. 29:11). For further details on the Jubilee of Hope, visit diolc.org/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope

Kids Korner

What Kind of Fig Tree are You?



In today's Gospel reading, we hear a parable about a fig tree. The owner waited three years for it to grow some figs, but it still wasn't producing any. He told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener said he would try just for one more year to get it to bear fruit- and if it didn't give any then he would cut it down.

The fig tree is like a person who can do good things but doesn't. The owner shows the justice of God- he has given the tree enough chances so its time is up. But the gardener is like God's mercy. He wants to give the tree one more chance. And he's going to give it extra fertilizer to try to help it.



Lent is a good time to look at our own life and see if we are doing all the good things we can. Maybe there's something nice that we know we could do for someone but we just never bother to. Or maybe we aren't praying quite as much as we know we should. God is giving us a chance to become better people this Lent, and it's your job to make it happen!

The Burning Bush Word-Find

A F R A I D O F F R E E
 B D E L I V E R O M F S
 R G O D J E T H R O R U
 A L O R D E A O W S E F
 H A V E F S K L A E J F
 A N I L I H E Y R S A E
 M D S G R O U N D A C R
 F L A M E E G Y P T O I
 A O A B U S H O R E B N
 C O C N D B L A Z I N G
 E K M I S E R A B L E S

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in this story.



The left over letters tell what the Israelites in Egypt wanted:

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MOSES was looking after the sheep of his father-in-law, JETHRO, on Mount HOREB. Suddenly he noticed a BUSH that was BLAZING like FIRE, but it wasn't burning up! He came FORWARD to look closer, but GOD spoke from the FLAME, saying "Come no nearer. TAKE your SHOES OFF, for this is HOLY GROUND. I am the God of your fathers-of ABRAHAM, ISAAC and JACOB." Moses was AFRAID to LOOK at God, and covered his FACE. The LORD said, "I HAVE seen the MISERABLE state of my people in EGYPT and heard their cry to be FREE. I will DELIVER them from their SUFFERING and bring them to a new LAND."

PASTOR

Fr. Biju Chennala Kunjukutty, MSFS

Cell: (715) 495-2338

Email: bchennala@diolclergy.org

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....8:00 PM
 Sunday.....10:00 AM

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday and Friday.....8:00 AM

ADORATION

Wednesday.....7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays during Adoration & By Appointment

PARISH OFFICE (located in the church Sacristy)

Hours: Wednesday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Friday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Melissa Schaub.....Secretary/Bookkeeper

Office Phone: (608) 452-4680

Home Phone: (608) 486-4012

Bulletin deadline:Wednesday

Email: parishoffice@stpmr.diolcparish.org

PARISH WEBMASTER Christopher Pundzak

SACRISTANS Richard Korish & Austin Menn

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Miranda Flock

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Mark Nicolai (Chairman), Rachel Persson,
 Brandon Flock & Louisa Peterson
 (Committee liaisons: Peter Benzing & Leo Leis)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Tom Schaub, Mark Stephenson, Rob Slattery,
 Peter Benzing, Kathy Flock, Sarah Gronemus

PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women

Pam Benzing, Mary Bach-Filla

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Leo Leis (Chairman), Mark Gronemus,
 Pat Lucey, Don Halderson, David Scharping

CEMETERY SEXTON

Tom Schaub...(608) 486-4012

FUNERAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Deborah Leis.....(608) 632-7830

MUSIC

Terese Slattery, Coordinator.....(608) 452-4605
 Leland Gregorich, Organist

**St. Peters
 Catholic Church**
 Middle Ridge, WI
 W697 State Hwy 33
 Rockland, WI 54653
 608-452-4680

Parish website: www.saintpetersparish.net



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 23, 2025

**THE BARREN
 FIG TREE**



CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR:

- Joining the Parish • Weddings • Baptisms
- Anointing of the sick (Please call Father Biju's cell phone)
- If you are home-bound & would like to be visited

Parish Intentions

3/26 Wednesday 8:00 AM –
† Dave & Marcie Hundt (HF)
3/28 Friday 8:00 AM–
† Stan Hundt (AH)
3/29 Saturday 8:00 PM –
Schermerhorn Family (JPS)
3/30 Sunday 10:00 AM –
† Otto & Theresa Schaub (SF)

Ministry Servers

Saturday March 29 – 8:00 PM
 Servers: Andrew & Matthew Schaub
 Ushers: Tom Schaub & Mike Schaub
 Lector: Melissa Schaub
Sunday March 30 – 10:00 AM
 Servers: Lukas Slattery & Sawyer Tollefson
 Ushers: Mark Stephenson & Rob Slattery
 Lector: Ann Hundt
 Reminder We understand everybody's schedules get busy. If you are not able to make it on a day you are scheduled PLEASE make the effort to find a replacement or at least let somebody know ahead of time!!

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays during Lent @ 7:30 PM
Adoration to follow

Parish Calendar of Events

Wed. March 26 – CCD/Senior Soup Supper & Game night
Sun. March 30 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Wed. April 2 - Grades 7-10 CCD Class 7 – 8:15 PM
Fri. April 4 – Anointing of the Sick Sacrament available; contact Fr. Biju to schedule
Sun. April 6 - Grades 1-6 CCD Class 8:45 – 9:45 AM
Sun. April 6 – Rosary in church @ 7:30 PM
Tues. April 8 – Joint Council meeting:
 Finance @ 6:30 PM, Advisory @ 7:30 PM
Wed. April 9 – Confessions/2 priests available @ 6:30 PM
Wed. April 16 – St. Peter's Soup Supper @ 6:30 PM

From the Pastor's Pen
Third Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel passage reminds us that life is precious and the gift of time on this earth is just that — a gift. Let's take a moment to reflect on this profound truth. None of us knows how much time we have, so we must use this gift intentionally to glorify God and serve our neighbor.

Jesus offers the parable of the fig tree to illustrate this truth further. The owner of the orchard came searching for fruit on a fig tree he had planted in his orchard. Finding no fruit on the tree after three years, he told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener intercedes and asks for one more year to cultivate and fertilize the tree, hoping it will bear fruit. The fig tree was not dying; it simply wasn't doing much of anything at all. Can this be said of us and our lives as well?

The season of Lent is a time to carefully reflect on how we spend our time. Do we make God our priority, tending to our spiritual growth and sacramental life with diligence? Do we give the next priority to our loved ones, focusing intentionally on them each day without distractions from phones, screens, or thoughts of work? If not, now is the moment to repent of our waste of time or misplaced priorities on our use of time. Remember, God is merciful but just. Let's turn to Him and ask Him to make our lives fruitful while we still have time, knowing that our potential for spiritual growth is limitless with His grace.

Parish News

St. Peter's Soup Supper: As another Lent progresses, we should gather with our parish family to enjoy fellowship. Join us on Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 pm for soup and other delectables in the church basement. Following the meal there will be Stations of the Cross (7:30 pm) and Adoration/Prayer time to follow. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

Stations of the Cross: On Wednesdays during Lent we will recite the Stations of the Cross beginning at 7:30 pm with Adoration to follow. This is a prayerful biblical meditation of 14 incidents from the Gospel accounts and traditions of the journey of Jesus from Pilate's house to being placed in the tomb. If you would like to volunteer to be the reader, please contact the parish office.

Children's Choir: You've been making good progress learning the parts to the new Mass of St. Brigid. We will practice after mass on Sunday March 30th. We will be singing this new mass on Easter Sunday. All school age children are welcome to join at any time. * The adult choir will sing the Mass of St. Brigid for the Easter Vigil mass. *

Easter flowers: Anyone wishing to donate towards our Easter flowers may place their donation in an envelope and mark it accordingly.

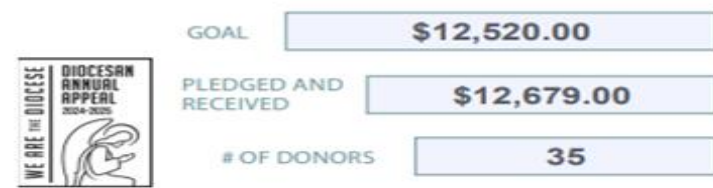
Morning of Reflection: The Founder of W.I.N.E., Women in the New Evangelization, Kelly Wahlquist, is our speaker for this morning get together. It starts at 9 a.m. April 5, 2025, at the Cathedral. She is a dynamic and inspiring speaker that travels the United States with her message to be witnesses of our faith and part of the New Evangelization. This is an opportunity to have a wonderful conclusion to your Lent that will sustain you through the rest of this Jubilee year. All Catholic Women are welcome. There will be a light breakfast served and there is NO COST to anyone. It is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America, Court 1183, and the La Crosse Deanery Council of Catholic Women. For more information call or text Kay Kesler at: 608-780-0485 and to let her know how many people are coming.

Penance Services Available: There will be confessions available at St. Peters on April 9th beginning at 6:30 pm until done. As previous years, there will be 2 priests available. This year the sacristy location will have a divider to be able to choose between a private or face-to-face confession. Two priests will be available at St. Josephs on Wednesday, April 2nd, beginning at 6:30 pm until done. There is also an opportunity at the Cathedral on April 14th from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM with several priests available.

An Opportunity for a Deeper Experience of God's Presence - Jubilee of Hope 2025: You are encouraged to participate in this Jubilee of Hope to receive God's gifts and experience His presence in a much deeper way. The gift of hope is especially important for us. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines hope as "the theological virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 1817). Ask God to increase the gift of hope in you. Further, make simple acts of hope by saying, "Jesus, I trust in You." For further details, visit diolc.org/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope.

First Sunday Rosary: We pray the rosary on the first Sunday of each month in church at 7:30 PM. **The next one will be April 6th.** Please plan to attend to pray as our Holy Mother has called us to do.

Anointing of the Sick: Fr. Biju will be available to perform this Sacrament on the first Friday of the month after daily mass. Please contact him directly if you or a family member would like to receive. **This is available next on April 4th.**



We have reached our goal. Don't stop now!! Any money collected over our goal comes back to St. Peter's for our own use towards projects and evangelization.

Pray Often & Daily!!!



Parish Finances (Fiscal Year Budget)

Weekly Target -	\$1,870.00
Last Week's Total -	\$1,580.00
	-\$290.00
Year to Date Target -	\$69,190.00
Year to Date Total -	\$63,146.19
	-\$6,043.81

Readings for March 30, 2025

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



St. Joseph's Ridge Mass Times

Saturday 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m.
 First Saturday Mass.....8:30am
 Confession time available after Mass
 Monday5:30pm
 Tuesday..... 5:30pm
 (Adoration before Mass beginning at 5:00 pm)
 Thursday.....8:30am